**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE ABBEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, SCHOOL OFFICIALS, AND COACHES AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON WINNING THE 2017 CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, on Friday, December 1, 2017, the Abbeville Panthers football team brought home the Class AA state title for the third consecutive year, defeating Bamberg‑Ehrhardt; and

Whereas, clinching the school’s ninth state football championship title, the Panthers came from behind to beat Bamberg‑Ehrhardt 14‑7 in the Class AA state title game at Benedict College’s Charlie W. Johnson Stadium; and

Whereas, Abbeville trailed 7‑0 with 9:34 left on the clock. With the cat‑like reflexes of the team’s mascot, JaBryan Sanders recovered Junior Rapley’s fumble in the end zone to tie the game at 7 with less than five minutes in the game; and

Whereas, Bamberg‑Ehrhardt fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Abbeville recovered. Three plays later, Rapley scored on a twenty‑six yard run to bring the score to 14‑7. Rapley and Jermaine Blackwell each finished with fifty‑one yards rushing. When the game was over, Abbeville outgained Bamberg‑Ehrhardt by 112 yards; and

Whereas, Abbeville coach Jamie Nickles describes his feelings on this fateful night, “You find yourself down in a state championship game, you find out what you are made of. I’m just so proud of my kids and the way they responded”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly value the prestige that the Abbeville High School football players have brought to their school and community and look forward to hearing of their achievements in the future. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, commend the Abbeville High School varsity football team, school officials, and coaches, and congratulate them on winning the 2017 Class AA State Championship Title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Dr. Charles Costner and head coach Jamie Nickles.

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